

Trevino et al.

S/N: 09/683,129

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A GUI for prescribing medical imaging sessions comprising:

a plurality of modularizing selectors configured to facilitate workflow through an imaging application;

a plurality of status indicators, each status indicator correlating with a modularizing selector and configured to display at least one of selection of the modularizing selector and completion of tasks associated with the modularizing selector; and

a dedicated messaging module configured to be persistently displayed across variations in the plurality of modularizing selectors and the plurality of status indicators and to automatically display messages regarding the imaging application.

2. (Original) The GUI of claim 1 further comprising at least two application regions and wherein the plurality of modularizing selectors are aligned vertically in a single application region.

3. (Original) The GUI of claim 2 further comprising a plurality of windows corresponding in number to the plurality of modularizing selectors, the plurality of windows configured to present a number of scan parameters.

4. (Original) The GUI of claim 1 further comprising at least one of a scan status indicator and a list of components necessary to initiate scan activity.

5. (Original) The GUI of claim 4 further comprising a messaging region and wherein the messaging module and the at least one of the scan status indicator and the list of components are displayed in the messaging region, and wherein the messaging region is positioned in a lower portion of the GUI.

6. (Original) The GUI of claim 1 wherein the messaging module includes a pop-up dialog configured to display an invalidity of a user input.

7. (Original) The GUI of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of application-specific selectors that upon user selection each application-specific selection is configured to display a window specific to the imaging application and wherein the plurality of application-specific selectors are horizontally oriented.

Trevino et al.

S/N: 09/683,129

8. (Original) The GUI of claim 7 wherein the plurality of application-specific selectors include a landmark selector, a patient information selector, an advanced settings selector, and a help selector, and wherein each of application-specific selector is configured to launch a application specific window upon user selection, wherein the application specific windows include a landmark window configured to aid user positioning of a scan subject, a patient information window configured to display patient information, an advanced settings and parameters window configured to display advanced settings and parameters for the imaging application, and a help configured to display assistance information related to the imaging application.

9. (Original) The GUI of claim 1 having a layout configured to facilitate left-to-right and top-to-bottom MR prescription workflow to guide a user logically through a managed prescription.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) An MRI apparatus to prescribe an imaging session and acquire imaging data, the MRI apparatus comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system having a plurality of gradient coils positioned about a bore of a magnet to impress a polarizing magnetic field, and an RF transceiver system and an RF switch controlled by a pulse module to transmit RF signals to an RF coil assembly to acquire MR images;

a computer programmed to:

- (A) receive a launch MR application command;
- (B) launch an MR application;
- (C) receive a number of application step identifiers;

Trevino et al.

S/N: 09/683,129

(D) display a GUI on a console, the GUI having a number of tabs equal to the number of identified application steps;

(E) initiate a localizer scan for at least one localizer and display a status of the localizer scan on the GUI;

(F) receive a prescription command and acquire MR images in response to the received prescription command for an application step; and

(G) receive another prescription command and acquire MR images in response to the received another prescription command for another application step.

17. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to repeat (G) for a remaining application step.

18. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to display, on the GUI, the acquired MR images.

19. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to receive a re-prescription command for an application step and reacquire previously acquired MR images for the application step.

20. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to display a series of prescription windows on the GUI.

21. (Previously Presented) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to reposition an MR image on the GUI in response to a imaging reposition user input.

22. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to continually display a scan status on the GUI, wherein the scan status includes one of stand-by, in-progress, and completed.

23. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the number of tabs are positioned vertically on the GUI, the GUI including a number of context-specific selectors positioned horizontally along a top region thereof.

Trevino et al.

S/N: 09/683,129

24. (Original) The MR apparatus of claim 16 wherein the computer is further programmed to display a summary module on the GUI, the summary module enabling review of prescription commands for acquiring medical imaging data..

25. (Currently Amended) A method for acquiring medical images comprising:
receiving a launch application instruction;
launching the application;
determining a number of prescription steps based on a received user input;

[[and]]

displaying a GUI for prescribing an imaging session, the GUI having a number of vertically aligned modularizing tabs corresponding to the number of prescription steps;
wherein the GUI includes a number of context-specific tabs horizontally aligned;
wherein the number of modularizing tabs are configured to facilitate a logical and structured workflow of prescribing a medical imaging session; and
displaying a number of status indicators on the GUI, the number of status indicators configured to indicate completion of a prescription step.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the number of context-specific tabs are arranged horizontally across a top region of the GUI.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the number of modularizing tabs are arranged vertically along a generally left region of the GUI.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising displaying messages to an operator in a bottom region of the GUI.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[33]] 30 wherein the messages include at least one of scanner information, user messages, state of current application, scan times, availability of another scan, status of other scan applications, and a list of components necessary to initiate scan activity.

32. (Canceled)